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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

October 1979 | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | Number 379

SUMMARY: There was little change in the number of unemployed between August and September. The jobless count at 12,930 was 2.8 percent of the labor force. When compared with a year ago, total unemployment was down 290 and the rate fell 0.2 percentage points. Unadjusted national rates were 5.6 percent this year and 5.7 percent a year ago.

The civilian labor force declined seasonally in September to 462,310. July and August are the peak tourist months. Thus, tourist-related establishments experience reduced labor needs in September and youth workers leave the labor force to return to school and college.

The Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers in the nation rose 1.0 percent in September to 223.4 (1967=100), up 12.1 percent from a year earlier. The Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers increased 1.0 percent in September to 223.7, up 12.4 percent from a year ago.

MAJOR EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: Nonfarm payroll employment, as measured by the monthly survey of establishments, declined 3,300 in September to 395,400. Trade and services fell by 1,100 and 2,950, primarily in resort and recreational areas as the peak of the summer tourist season passed. Manufacturing at 114,600 showed little net change from August. The opening of schools caused a rise in transportation and in local government.

Over the past year, employment has risen by 17,450, or 4.6 percent. Manufacturing gained by 2,950, or 2.6 percent. Since mid-1978, the growth rate in manufacturing has slowed substantially. The average rate of growth during 1978 was 8.2 percent.

The nonmanufacturing sector gained 14,500 jobs over the year, an annual rate of increase of 5.4 percent, down from the 1978 annual growth rate of 7.1 percent.

The overall growth in manufacturing was affected by conditions in leather and leather products. During 1978, the industry was able to hold its own, but in 1979, foreign competition seriously affected the industry and by September, 1,350 jobs had been lost, largely from factory closings. Durable goods manufacturing gained 4,000 over the year, including 250 workers involved in a labor dispute in 1978. Job gains were concentrated in machinery and electrical products (1,050 and 1,250 respectively). Primary and fabricated metals gained 800 jobs over the year.

In nonmanufacturing, employment rose 14,500 from September 1978 with over 70 percent in trade and services. Construction added 1,050 jobs, a substantial proportion at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Project. Federal, state and local government all had increases over the year.

New Hampshire Civilian Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment
and Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers			Numerical change from	
	September 1979	August 1979	September 1978	Previous month	Previous year
1. Civilian labor force*	462,310	466,760	443,730	-4,450	18,580
2. Unemployment	12,930	13,010	13,220	-80	-290
Percent of labor force	2.8	2.8	3.0	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	449,380	453.650	430,260	-4,270	19,120
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	100	250	-100	-250
Nonagr. wage & salary**	395,400	398,700	377,950	-3,300	17,450
Manufacturing	114,600	114,700	111,650	-100	2,950
Durable goods	69,300	69,400	65,300	-100	4,000
Lumber & wood prods.	5,550	5,550	5,500	0	50
Furniture & fixtures	2,050	2,050	2,050	0	0
Stone & clay prods.	3,050	3,050	2,800	0	250
Primary metal prods.	3,200	3,150	2,900	50	300
Fabricated metal prods.	7,250	7,100	6,750	150	500
Machinery (exc. elec.)	20,300	20,350	19,250	-50	1,050
Electrical prods.	17,650	17,900	16,400	-250	1,250
Miscellaneous prods.	2,050	2,000	1,800	50	250
Other durable goods	8,200	8,250	7,850	-50	350
Nondurable goods	45,300	45,300	46,350	0	-1,050
Food & kindred prods.	3,450	3,550	3,400	-100	50
Textile mill prods.	5,300	5,300	5,350	0	-50
Apparel	2,800	2,800	3,050	0	-250
Paper & allied prods.	6,500	6,400	6,400	100	100
Print., pub. & allied	6,150	6,050	5,900	100	250
Leather & lea. prods.	10,200	10,550	11,550	-350	-1,350
Other nondurable goods	10,900	10,650	10,700	250	200
Nonmanufacturing	280,800	284,000	266,300	-3,200	14,500
Construction (inc. min.)	23,150	23,250	22,100	-100	1,050
Trans., comm. & util	13,850	13,400	13,600	450	250
Trade	90,600	91,700	84,700	-1,100	5,900
Fin., ins. & real estate	19,000	19,050	17,800	-50	1,200
Service industry & other	73,600	76,550	69,150	-2,950	4,450
Government	60,600	60,050	58,950	550	1,650
Federal	11,650	11,850	11,050	-200	600
State	15,700	15,550	15,050	150	650
Local	33,250	32,650	32,850	600	400

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark: March 1978

Total Unemployment and Labor Force by Labor Market Area (LMA) and County

Area	Unemployment*				Civilian Labor Force		Numerical Change from previous year	
	September 1979		September 1978		September			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	1979	1978	Unemployment	Labor Force
New Hampshire	12,930	2.8	13,220	3.0	462,310	443,730	-290	18,580
Labor Market Area								
Berlin	750	3.5	870	3.9	21,130	22,070	-120	-940
Claremont	840	2.3	910	2.5	36,920	36,780	-70	140
Concord	1,220	2.8	1,120	2.6	43,980	42,630	100	1,350
Dover	1,540	3.2	1,520	3.3	48,870	45,720	20	3,150
Keene	780	2.0	850	2.3	38,910	37,220	-70	1,690
Laconia	1,010	2.4	1,270	3.0	42,470	41,990	-260	480
Littleton	650	4.1	380	2.3	15,760	16,190	270	-430
Manchester	2,500	2.9	2,860	3.5	86,030	82,220	-360	3,810
Nashua	1,800	2.9	1,640	2.7	62,890	59,690	160	3,200
Portsmouth	1,140	2.7	1,030	2.8	42,210	36,310	110	5,900
N.H. - Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA**	700	3.0	770	3.4	23,140	22,910	-70	230
County								
Belknap	540	2.5	720	3.4	21,500	21,300	-180	200
Carroll	230	1.8	290	2.2	13,080	13,180	-60	-100
Cheshire	700	2.0	780	2.4	34,640	33,150	-80	1,490
Coos	770	4.0	800	4.0	19,360	20,160	-30	-800
Grafton	1,100	3.1	940	2.7	35,100	35,220	160	-120
Hillsborough	3,890	2.9	3,950	3.1	131,940	125,710	-60	6,230
Merrimack	1,360	2.7	1,360	2.7	50,930	49,560	0	1,370
Rockingham	2,460	2.7	2,600	3.1	92,080	84,820	-140	7,260
Strafford	1,440	3.2	1,350	3.2	44,630	41,690	90	2,940
Sullivan	440	2.3	430	2.3	19,050	18,940	10	110

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "70 Step Method" Handbook, unadjusted

** New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and six small towns

Employment Service Activity

Item	September 1979	August 1979	October 1978 to September 1979
Total applications for employment	2,857	3,552	69,331
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,382	3,498	29,998
Placements - job openings filled	1,768	1,657	16,287
Job openings unfilled end of month*	2,175	2,732	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural	1,768	1,657	16,287
Berlin	133	117	879
Claremont	117	117	1,153
Concord	175	178	1,632
Dover	224	196	1,815
Keene	140	147	1,396
Laconia	161	133	1,295
Littleton	92	91	991
Manchester	277	237	2,484
Nashua	175	148	1,847
Portsmouth	274	293	2,795

*Includes part-time, seasonal and other openings.

At the end of September, the number of active applicants on file at New Hamsphire Job Services offices was 10,775 of which 2,857 were new applicants or renewals. Forty-seven percent of the active file were females, and the under 22 and over 45 years old categories accounted for 21 percent and 23 percent respectively. Approximately 18 percent of the active applicants were economically disadvantaged. By highest grade completed, three-quarters of the applicants had 12 or more years of formal education or its equivalent. Veterans comprised 21 percent of the active applicants with 43 percent of these from the Vietnam War Era.

The number of nonagricultural employer visits fell sharply in September as employer visitation programs were curtailed in order to meet other program requirements. Nonagricultural promotional telephone contacts were down 60.1 percent for the same reason. Agricultural employer visits were with relation to the apple harvest. All reported activities were below a year ago.

During September, employers placed orders for 2,382 job openings with local Job Service offices for a total of 5,114 openings available during the month. Of these 1,768 (35 percent) were filled and 2,175 remained unfilled at the end of the month (557 less than last month). Approximately 42 percent of the openings filled were in clerical (29 percent), and services (13 percent). Structural occupations accounted for 20 percent while benchwork and machine trades totaled 22 percent.

Weekly Claims Filed During the Month
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. Federal Employees No UI		U.C. State Workers (Only)		Servicemen UCX (Only)	
	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All offices	2,493	12,644	23	128	21	39	102	464
Berlin	169	880	1	2	0	0	4	26
Claremont	103	403	0	2	1	3	1	32
Concord	242	884	4	17	6	1	8	28
Dover	508	1,854	4	9	1	5	13	75
Keene	113	713	1	0	3	18	5	31
Laconia	193	1,337	1	11	6	3	6	35
Littleton	166	952	1	7	0	0	4	7
Manchester	488	2,768	2	46	0	2	28	73
Nashua	329	1,762	2	17	3	1	12	60
Portsmouth	182	1,191	6	16	1	4	14	73
Not included above:								
Liable Interstate	312	1,455	8	26	0	0	8	9
Local government	25	68						

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $81.87.

Insured Unemployed by Industry

Industry	August 1979	August 1978	Percent change
Total - all industries	3,719	3,859	-3.6
Manufacturing	2,203	1,381	59.5
Durable goods	421	555	-24.1
Electrical products	123	179	-31.3
Machinery	92	121	-24.0
Lumber & wood pds.	26	34	-23.5
All other durable	180	221	-18.6
Nondurable goods	1,782	826	115.7
Leather & lea. pds.	798	447	78.5
Textiles	32	22	45.5
Paper & paper prods.	22	68	-67.6
Printing & allied	32	24	33.3
Apparel	40	101	-60.4
Rubber & plastic pds.	826	106	679.2
Other nondurable	32	58	-44.8
Nonmanufacturing	1,515	2,478	-38.9
Construction	306	1,089	-71.9
Trade	511	575	-11.1
Services	452	539	-16.1
All other nonmfg.	246	275	-10.5

These insured unemployment data are based on a 30 percent sample of total and partial weeks of unemployment claimed for the week including August 12, 1979. Insured unemployment decreased 4,347 from July to 3,719 in August of which 57 percent were female. Insured unemployment decreased 140 or 3.6 percent from August 1978. Thirty percent of the insured unemployed were out of work for 1-4 weeks while another 41 percent were out of work for 5-14 weeks duration. Sixty-two percent of the insured unemployed were under 45 years of age. Manufacturing accounted for fifty-seven percent of the insured unemployed. Closing of a canvas footwear plant in Berlin earlier this year and a temporary layoff at an automobile products plant in the Dover area accounted for the sharp rise of insured unemployed in rubber and plastics. Benchwork (1,274) leads occupations with one-third of all insured unemployed followed by professional, technical and managerial (627), clerical (522) and structural (318).

FUND BALANCE: There was $77,042,511.51 in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund at the end of August. Net contributions amounted to $4,965,607.28 and net benefits paid were $1,362,391.90. Interest credited during the month was $1,143,221.22.

Labor Turnover Rates Per 100 Employees

Industry	Accession Rates						Separation Rates								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Aug. 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979	July 1979	Aug. 1978
Manufacturing	7.7	6.1	7.7	5.3	4.7	6.0	7.3	7.4	6.6	5.5	3.5	5.2	0.8	3.0	0.4
Durable goods	5.6	5.2	6.3	4.5	3.8	4.8	6.1	5.8	5.1	4.8	2.7	3.9	0.4	2.4	0.2
Lmbr. & wood pds.*															
Furn. & fixtures *															
Stone & clay pds.	3.8	2.2	7.4	2.2	2.0	7.3	11.3	8.0	8.3	5.0	3.3	7.2	4.9	3.8	0.1
Prim. metal pds.	5.9	6.1	6.8	5.9	5.5	6.2	5.1	3.8	4.7	4.2	2.2	3.6	0.1	0.7	0.1
Fab. metal pds.	11.5	4.3	14.3	6.1	4.0	8.0	7.2	8.2	8.4	5.9	2.8	5.6	0.5	4.7	0.4
Electrical pds.	6.3	7.5	5.0	5.8	4.9	4.8	7.1	6.3	4.8	6.2	3.2	4.2	0.2	2.4	*
Misc. prods.	11.4	8.4	10.3	8.7	7.7	9.4	11.2	11.7	9.5	8.1	6.6	8.4	0.1	2.6	*
Mach. & other	2.8	3.0	4.2	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	1.7	2.3	0.3	0.6	0.2
Nondurable goods	11.0	7.9	9.7	6.5	6.3	7.8	9.1	10.2	8.8	6.7	4.8	6.8	1.3	4.3	0.8
Food & kindred	13.0	8.7	3.8	7.8	8.3	3.2	9.6	9.7	4.4	7.3	4.8	3.0	1.0	4.3	0.7
Textile mill pds.*															
Apparel	12.7	7.5	9.5	7.5	5.6	8.0	11.4	12.6	10.4	8.1	4.8	8.0	1.1	5.6	0.4
Paper & allied	2.5	2.6	1.2	1.7	2.5	1.1	3.5	2.7	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
Prt.pub.&allied *															
Lea. & lea. pds.	17.6	11.3	15.1	7.7	7.1	11.6	13.0	18.5	13.1	7.9	6.9	10.3	4.5	11.0	2.0
Lea. tan & fin.	3.5	9.6	5.2	3.4	9.6	5.2	6.9	5.2	6.1	5.4	4.4	5.4	0.7	*	*
Footwear	21.3	12.2	16.0	9.0	6.5	12.3	14.7	21.8	13.9	8.7	7.6	10.8	5.4	13.6	2.3
Other nondurable	8.7	9.0	12.2	7.3	8.3	9.7	8.5	7.0	9.2	6.9	5.3	6.8	0.5	0.5	0.3

* Not published due to inadequate sample
** Less than 0.05 rate

The above data on turnover rates are a weighted series based on reports from 325 cooperating establishments representing 65 percent of the total manufacturing employment in the week including August 12, 1979.

Labor Turnover Activity in New Hampshire Factories

Hiring activity in New Hampshire factories increased from 6.1 per 100 workers in July to 7.7 per 100 in August. New hires accounted for about two-thirds of the hiring activity. Separations at 7.3 per 100 showed little overall change from month to month. Although layoffs were down substantially, the rise in quits were offsetting.

Compared with a year ago, the total accession rate was unchanged. Although new hires went down (from 6.0 to 5.3 per 100), recalls rose from 1.1 to 2.2 per 100 workers. The rate of separations rose over the year from 6.6 to 7.3 per 100 workers. Both the quit rate and the layoff rate were up this year.

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers
in Manufacturing Industries of New Hampshire

Industry	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1979	Aug. 1979	Sept. 1978
All manufacturing	$223.41	$220.18	$204.12	40.4	40.4	40.5	$5.53	$5.45	$5.04
Durable goods	227.05	221.90	211.45	40.4	40.2	40.9	5.62	5.52	5.17
Lumber & wood pds.	195.32	192.66	185.10	38.0	39.0	39.3	5.14	4.94	4.71
Furniture & fixtures	199.18	197.55	185.06	40.9	40.9	41.4	4.87	4.83	4.47
Stone & clay pds.	223.10	237.63	222.03	38.8	40.9	41.5	5.75	5.81	5.35
Primary metal pds.	253.52	246.16	231.85	44.4	43.8	44.5	5.71	5.62	5.21
Fab. metal prods.	224.13	220.32	213.19	41.2	40.8	42.3	5.44	5.40	5.04
Mach. (exc. elec.)	246.29	240.70	227.42	42.1	41.5	41.5	5.85	5.80	5.48
Electrical prods.	218.01	211.14	206.00	39.0	38.6	40.0	5.59	5.47	5.15
Miscellaneous pds.	169.17	168.58	159.60	38.8	38.4	40.0	4.36	4.39	3.99
Other durable	242.20	231.47	214.94	40.1	39.5	40.1	6.04	5.86	5.36
Nondurable goods	218.97	216.93	194.71	40.4	40.7	39.9	5.42	5.33	4.88
Food & kindred pds.	273.70	273.05	248.82	42.9	43.0	43.5	6.38	6.35	5.72
Textile mill prods.	181.76	175.33	172.08	39.6	39.4	40.3	4.59	4.45	4.27
Apparel	174.90	160.86	156.02	40.3	38.3	39.8	4.34	4.20	3.92
Paper & allied pds.	329.11	325.35	280.90	50.4	49.9	46.2	6.53	6.52	6.08
Print.,pub. & allied	246.31	249.27	229.51	39.6	40.4	39.3	6.22	6.17	5.84
Leather & lea. prods.	154.15	160.88	143.54	35.6	37.5	36.9	4.33	4.29	3.89
Lea. tan. & fin.	239.37	236.77	210.14	39.5	39.2	39.8	6.06	6.04	5.28
Footwear	142.04	150.29	135.42	34.9	37.2	36.6	4.07	4.04	3.70
Other nondurable	224.87	221.29	199.02	39.8	39.8	39.1	5.65	5.56	5.09

The above data on hours and earnings are a weighted series based on reports from 268 cooperating firms representing approximately 57 percent of an estimated 85,840 production workers who worked or received pay for any part of the pay period including September 12, 1979. Persons on unpaid leave or vacation without pay are excluded.

Factory Hours and Earnings

Hourly earnings of production workers in New Hampshire factories rose eight cents in September to $5.53, 9.7 percent higher than a year ago. Hours of work were unchanged at 40.4 hours. Average weekly earnings were $223.41 in September, up $3.23 from August and $19.29, or 9.5 percent, over the year.

In durable goods, hourly earnings rose ten cents over the month to $5.62, 8.7 percent higher than a year ago. Hours of work were up 0.2 hour over the month to 40.4 hours but were 0.5 hour below September 1978. Weekly earnings increased $5.15 from August to $227.05 and were $15.60 (7.4 percent) above a year ago.

In nondurables, hourly earnings went up nine cents from August to $5.42, a level 11.1 percent higher than September 1978. Hours of work declined 0.3 hour in September to 40.4 hours but were 0.5 hour above a year earlier. Average weekly earnings were $218.97 in September, up $2.04 from August and $24.26 (12.5 percent) over the year.

U.S. Consumer Price Index - 1967=100

Item	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers					
Revised Index					
Current month - September	223.7				
Percent in 12 months	12.4				
Year Average		195.3	181.5	170.5	161.2
Percent increase each year		7.6	6.5	5.8	9.1
All Urban Consumers					
New Index					
Current month - September	223.4				
Percent in 12 months	12.1				
Year Average		195.4			
Percent increase each year		7.7			

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